

would not refuse the nomination. In a long private and confidential letter to Mr. Munsey, under date of January 16, 1912, which was published several weeks later, Boosevelt gave his reasons for not granting the request. In this letter he said:

"I am not and shall not be a candidate. I shall not seek the nomination, nor would I accept it if it came to me as the result of an intrigue. But I will not tie my hands by a statement which would make it difficult or impossible for me to serve the public by undertaking a great task if the people as a whole seemed definitely to come to the conclusion that I ought to do that task. In other words, as far as in me lies I am endeavoring to look at this matter purely from the standpoint of the public interest, of the interest of the people as a whole, and not in the least from my own standpoint.

"If I should consult only my own pleasure and interest, I should most emphatically and immediately announce that I would under no circumstances run. I have had all the honor that any man can have from holding the office of President. From every personal standpoint there is nothing for me to gain either in running for the office or in holding the office once more, and there is very much to lose.

"Under such circumstances, if I consulted only my own interest, the obvious thing to do would be to announce that I would not obey any popular mandate, that I would not run if nominated. I shall not follow this course because I am sincerely endeavoring to look at the

matter only from  
the standpoint of the popular interest. It is  
not only  
necessary for the people to have the right  
instrument, the  
right tool, with which to work in any given  
emergency, but  
it is necessary that they themselves shall  
choose, and shall  
believe in the sufficiency of, that instrument.  
If at this  
particular crisis, with the particular  
problems ahead of  
us at this particular time, the people feel that  
I am the one  
man in sight to do the job, then I should  
regard myself as  
shirking a plain duty if I refused to do it.

"What I am interested in, remember, is not  
in the least